

What is claimed is:

1. A path control device connected to a plurality of transfer devices for transferring a packet on a network, so as to control a transfer path of the packet, the path control device comprising:

a path control information storage means for holding a plurality of pieces of path control information kept in a stored state, the plurality of pieces of path control information being transferred from the plurality of transfer devices, and

a path control means for recognizing a path between a mobile terminal and the correspondent terminal, based on a location information of each of the mobile terminal and the correspondent terminal as a correspondent node as well as the plurality of pieces of path control information, so as to be able to determine a transfer device that serves as a switchover point of the path, on the occasion of a change of the path accompanied by an occasional migration of the mobile terminal.

2. The path control device according to claim 1, characterized in that, the path control means predicts a post-migration path extending from the correspondent terminal up to a transfer device to

which the mobile terminal will probably be connected after migration of the mobile terminal, and then makes a comparison between a pre-migration path extending from the correspondent terminal up to a transfer device to which the mobile terminal has been kept connected before the migration and the predicted post-migration path, so as to determine a transfer device serving as the switchover point.

3. The path control device according to claim 2, characterized in that the path control means determines a transfer device closest to the mobile terminal in a common part between the pre-migration path and the post-migration path, as the transfer device serving as the switchover point.

4. A path control method applied to a path control device connected to a plurality of transfer devices for transferring a packet on a network so as to control a transfer path of the packet, the path control method comprising the steps of:

a path control information storage step
wherein

a plurality of pieces of path control information transferred from the plurality of transfer devices are received and stored;

a path recognition step wherein a pre-migration path between a mobile terminal and the correspondent terminal is recognized, based on a location information of each of the mobile terminal and the correspondent terminal as a correspondent node as well as the plurality of pieces of path control information;

a path prediction step wherein, when the mobile terminal migrates, a post-migration path between the mobile terminal after the migration and the correspondent terminal is predicted, based on the location information of the mobile terminal after the migration, the location information of the correspondent terminal as well as the plurality of pieces of path control information; and

a determination step wherein a transfer device serving as a switchover point of the path is determined based on the pre-migration path and the post-migration path.

5. The path control method according to claim 4, characterized in that, in the determination step, a comparison between the pre-migration path and the post-migration path is made, whereby the transfer device serving as the switchover point is determined.

6. The path control method according to claim 5, characterized in that, in the determination step, a transfer device closest to the mobile terminal in a common part between the pre-migration path and the post-migration path, is
5 determined as the transfer device serving as the switchover point.